

United States Government
MEMORANDUM

Approved For Release 2002/01/08 : CIA-RDP84-00313R000100150003-2

Office of
Personnel Management

Subject: Excalibur Award

Date: JAN 6 1979
In Reply Refer To:

STATINTL

From: [REDACTED], Chief
Incentive Awards Branch

Your Reference:

To: Department and Agency Incentive Awards Administrators

The attached copy of a letter from Congressman Michael D. Barnes to the heads of Federal agencies invites nominations for honorary awards to be presented on a periodic basis for outstanding contributions being made by civilian and military personnel. Congressman Barnes hopes that other members of the Congress will join him in this effort and intends to seek their active support and participation.

The Office of Personnel Management, which has been asked and has furnished advice to the Congressman's office in the development of this award, fully endorses this effort. Our initial thinking with respect to objectives, criteria, eligibility and other matters is contained in the attached outline. This material is intended for agencies' use in participating in this program and will be supplemented as further refinements are made.

Should you have questions or need further information, please contact Mr. Keith Haller, Administrative Assistant to Congressman Barnes (225-5341).

Attachments

MICHAEL D. BARNES
5TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
POLICY AND TRADE

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEES:
IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES AND
INTERNATIONAL LAW
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND
GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

May 4, 1979

I am writing to ask your cooperation and participation in an effort -- something I've designated as the "Excalibur Award" -- that I believe will help to improve the image of the Federal government. On a regular basis I, and hopefully other colleagues of mine in the Congress, would like to honor and give publicity to some of the outstanding contributions being made by Federal civilian and military personnel. By so doing, I believe we can help balance what, unfortunately, has become an almost constant one-sided attack on government operations and personnel.

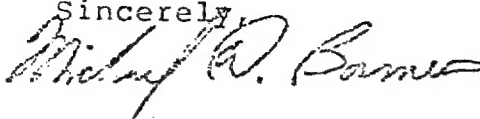
Public confidence in our government is low, principally, I believe, because much of what we hear and read maligns government personnel. I, as one member of Congress, believe it is time to help tell the other side of the story -- the positive side -- of people and organizations in government that are serving our country extremely well. I feel the public also should hear about dedicated public servants whose efforts are making a tremendous difference in the quality of services provided to the public, the efficiency of operations, and the effectiveness and success of our scientific and technical programs.

I seek your cooperation in the continued recognition of deserving personnel by providing information about members of your organization whose outstanding efforts should be considered for public recognition by the Congress and the American people. One-page nominations should include: name, title, grade, organization and location of the nominee; a brief description of the exceptional contribution; and the name and phone number of an individual within your agency to contact for further information. Nominations should be forwarded to my office to the attention of my Administrative Assistant, Keith Haller. Also, I seek your support of this project by communicating my interest in receiving nominations throughout your organization, and by your presence, when convenient, at appropriate ceremonies honoring those selected.

I also want to open the nominations process to the public. When a public nomination is received which involves a member of your organization, I intend to check with your agency for concurrence during consideration of a nominee's achievement. I have established a prestigious committee composed of individuals drawn from academia, media, private industry, labor and the legislative branch to screen all nominations.

I look forward to your help and participation in this project which I hope will contribute to greater awareness of some of government's successes.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Barnes

MDB/kh

The Excalibur Award

OBJECTIVES

- o to recognize some of the most outstanding achievements made by Federal career civil servants at all levels
- o to increase public understanding and appreciation for such contributions
- o to help counter the negative views associated with Government today
- o to encourage those in Government to strive for excellence and others to explore Federal career opportunities

CRITERIA

Individuals honored through these awards will be selected from among Federal career civilian and military personnel who have demonstrated:

- o unusual leadership or individual efforts in solving problems at community, state, regional, national or international levels
- o outstanding service to the public, e.g. improvement in the quality and/or efficiency of services provided the public; or simplification of the regulations affecting the private sector
- o personal integrity, honesty, high moral character, and courage in dealing with complex and sensitive issues
- o ability to overcome unusual obstacles or handicaps in achieving major organizational goals and objectives
- o outstanding scientific, technical, or administrative achievements that bring great credit upon the organization and the Federal Government

ELIGIBILITY

Nomination for the Excalibur Award is open to all Federal career civilian or military personnel who have made specific recent contributions of significance to their organizations and/or to the public. These awards are intended principally to honor individuals. However, if two or more persons worked as a small team to accomplish a specific objective, the team may be nominated.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations are invited immediately and on a continuing basis thereafter from the heads of Federal executive departments and agencies, the General Accounting Office as well as from other officials of these organizations. and from the general public.

Nominations summarizing the individual's achievement should not exceed one page in length.

SELECTION

Nominations will be secured and final determinations will be made by a committee composed of individuals drawn from academia, the news media, private industry, labor, and the legislative branch. In judging the contributions, these additional criteria will be considered:

- o impact of the contribution - how significant is the contribution to the department or agency and to the public
- o degree of individual effort involved - how unusual, unique or beyond job requirements is the achievement.

For those selected to receive this award the agency's personnel director will be contacted to obtain concurrence.

THE AWARD

The awards will be honorary in nature, and will be presented from time to time during the year.

PRESENTATION

Awards will be presented by Congressman Barnes and other members of the Congress at ceremonies to be held in Washington, D.C.